

"America the Beautiful" Includes the Wetlands

Movie theaters, malls, restaurants, amusement parks, beautiful housing developments - no one appreciates these things more than me, but in America's craze to one up the next guy we are destroying our environment and natural heritage. Before long the "purple mountains, majesty" and the "fruited plains" that we so proudly sing about in "America the Beautiful" will be gone. If we do not take a stand now and put more controls on land development we will soon lose many of our natural land and water resources including the wetland areas.

Some might say, "Who cares about the wetlands, they are just swamps!" What these people don't realize is that they aren't just swamps, but home to thousands of unique species of animals. These creatures can't just pick up and move like human beings because their bodies will not allow them to adapt to just any environment or climate. By destroying their natural habitats we are endangering many of them which could possibly lead to total extinction if enough of the wetlands are destroyed. For instance, many birds migrate to the wetlands each year to lay their

eggs and reproduce. If there aren't any wetlands to migrate to they will not have a place to reproduce and eventually they will die out. All creatures play a role in our world, and it is up to us, as the creatures with the higher intelligence, to protect all others.

The wetlands also play a major part in our water cycle. We can build cities left and right, but without the wetlands many of them could be wiped out by floods. These areas hold most of the rain water that falls to earth, keeping water levels down in rivers and streams; thus eliminating many water and erosion problems. They also serve as a giant filtering system for us, by distilling harmful toxins and other pollutants from the rain water before it enters our water systems. Although we have water filtration centers that purify our water, these systems would have a much bigger job to do without this natural process taking the initial steps.

Zoos, nature preserves, and pay lakes provide the outdoorsman with a form of recreation, but nothing can replace the thrill of observing animals in their natural habitat or standing knee deep in water wrangling with a whopper of a fish. By draining and filling in many of the wetland areas we are destroying some of nature's prime recreational areas. There is much to be learned, as well as enjoyed, by observing the exotic animals

and birds of the wetlands in their natural habitat, that cannot be learned in a man-made environment. Using controlled hunting seasons and limitations the wetlands also provide a paradise for hunters and fishermen. I often wonder why we spend so much money on recreation when nature provides us with so much at no charge!

Inquisitive minds should love the mystery that the wetlands hold. With the wide variety of vegetation and animal life in these areas, there are numerous strains of unknown bacteria growing along with the development of many new viruses that may hold the key to major medical breakthroughs of the future. Also, with the diverse animal population a huge gene pool is available for scientific investigation into the fields of genetics and genetic disorders. Could it be possible that in our desire to expand, we might be destroying something that could lead us to a cure for cancer or even AIDS?

Yes, with our ever growing population we need to expand and develop much of our land, but to what expense? We need to preserve our wetland areas, much as we have preserved forest land in Yellowstone National Park and other national reserve areas. Their benefits to us through recreation, animal habitats, water control, and scientific research

areas, far out weigh what their benefits to us would be if they were filled in and developed. Our beautiful country provided the inspiration for "America the Beautiful" and America should continue to provide that same kind of inspiration for future generations.

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Introduction
appeals
to reader
interests.

Movie theaters, malls, restaurants, amusement parks, beautiful housing developments - no one appreciates these things more than me, but in America's craze to one up the next guy we are destroying our environment and natural heritage. Before long the "purple mountains, majesty" and the "fruited plains" that we so proudly sing about in

"America the Beautiful" will be gone. If we do not take a stand now and put more controls on land development we will soon lose many of our natural land and water resources including the wetland areas.

Serious tone
appropriate for
the cause.

Establishes
an authentic
focused
purpose

Subtle
transition

Some might say, "Who cares about the wetlands, they are just swamps!" What these people don't realize is that they aren't just swamps, but home to thousands of unique species of animals. These creatures can't just pick up and move like human beings because their bodies will not allow them to adapt to just any environment or climate. By destroying their natural habitats we are endangering many of them which could possibly lead to total extinction if enough of the wetlands are destroyed.

Questions used
throughout the
piece as transitions

fact

For instance, many birds migrate to the wetlands each year to lay their

eggs and reproduce. If there aren't any wetlands to migrate to they will not have a place to reproduce and eventually they will die out. All creatures play a role in our world, and it is up to us, as the creatures with the higher intelligence, to protect all others.

appeal to audience

The wetlands also play a major part in our water cycle. We can build cities left and right, but without the wetlands many of them could be wiped out by floods. These areas hold most of the rain water that falls to earth, keeping water levels down in rivers and streams; thus eliminating many water and erosion problems. They also serve as a giant filtering system for us, by distilling harmful toxins and other pollutants from the rain water before it enters our water systems. Although we have water filtration centers that purify our water, these systems would have a much bigger job to do without this natural process taking the initial steps.

facts for support

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fact

voice

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subtle transition I often wonder why we spend so much money on recreation when nature provides us with so much at no charge! *insightful observation*

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audience appeal

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break throughs of the future. Also, with the diverse animal population a

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Questions nudge the reader to think about the problem.

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*insightful
conclusion*